

**VSA Council Minutes**  
*September 14, 2008*

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.

**2. Attendance**

Proxies: 2012.

Guests: Katherine Becker, Andrew Bennett (Student Asst. to the President), Matthew Brock (Misc), Isabella Dermogeot, Brian Farkas (Misc), Anabel Graff (ViCE), Hannah Groch-Begley, Julianne Herts (Misc), Maureen King (Campus Dining), Jacob Lieberman (Debate Society), Pheobe Magee, Danny McBree, Jordanna Merran, Michael Mestitz, Emma Mitchell (Misc), Raymon Parker (Senior Associate Dean of the College), Molly Turpin (Misc), Chaim Tuckerman-Vernon (Ultimate).

**3. Meal Plan Discussion**

Maureen King and Ray Parker presented to Council a brief synopsis of Campus Dining updates and the rationale behind the new meal plan. Mr. Parker explained that there was a discrepancy between the value of a dollar and a point under the previous plan, such that those on the meal plan were seriously subsidizing those without plans. Under the current structure, however, a point equals a dollar. He noted that the college is hoping that experience with the new program will shed light on the appropriate balance between meals and points.

Ms. King announced that Campus Dining is planning to open Java City in the morning this week from 8:30-11:30am, and that it will soon be open during evening hours as well. She commented that trays are still available to interested students, though the move to a mostly “tray-less” ACDC has already helped cut down on waste. In response to student feedback, frozen yogurt and gluten-free pizza dough will soon be available in the main dining area. For point drives, Mr. Parker explained that meals can be donated for prepared food and points can be donated for grocery items.

In terms of recent improvements, the college has put great work into construction at ACDC, and still plans to open a convenience store there during the second semester. Students can now purchase express meals at the Atrium, and can choose to pay for meals at the Express station, the Atrium, and ACDC with money or with points. In response to complaints about the new system, Mr. Parker collected feedback from ACDC diners this past week. Student commentary has been reviewed and will be considered as the administration works to improve the current system.

Noyes was concerned about student health under the present plan, as it encourages consumption of two or three large meals a day over purchase of a larger number of smaller meals. He also suggested that Vassar evaluate Aramark’s financial situation to assess the impact that this new system is having on their profits.

Town Students explained that ACDC has long been one of a few central, reliable places for students to convene for socializing and academic collaboration, and was concerned that the new meal plan interferes with campus social life. She claimed that many students are attempting to avoid ACDC at mealtime, but that this has caused great overcrowding at The Retreat.

Mr. Parker responded that the administration has been surprised by these results, and is particularly regretful that the new structure has interfered with meals for sports teams and foreign

language groups. To deal with the Retreat overflow, the college may have to modify staffing at and reinstate the lunchtime point limit on weekdays.

#### **4. Announcements**

##### **a. Campus Issues Forum**

The VP for Student Life announced that the next step in evaluating the meal plan will be a Campus Issues Forum on Tuesday night at 7pm in the Aula. He explained that this students-only meeting will be an opportunity for all students to come and share their ideas about campus dining, and he encouraged council members to spread the word to their constituents.

The President announced that a resolution on the meal plan is currently making its way through the Student Life Committee.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **a. Exec Report – Activities**

The VP for Activities announced that preparation is underway for Meet Me in Poughkeepsie on October 10<sup>th</sup>. She explained that several sponsorship applications have already been received, and asked that orgs continue to apply.

Activities also announced that several promising organizations will soon be presented for certification, and urged students to attend the upcoming Leadership for Change Workshops. Student Life and Activities will be leading a workshop on Monday night to educate students about how to get more involved in leadership capacities on campus.

Additionally, Activities has been working with Campus Activities to implement new All-Campus party policies. 2009 expressed concern that security has seemed a bit more intense at campus events this year, and asked that the Student Life and Activities committees discuss security's role and responsibilities at their upcoming meetings.

##### **b. ViCE Report**

Anabel Graff, ViCE Director, briefly updated Council on ViCE's plans and objectives for the coming year. She reported that Back to School Week was quite successful, proving to be a great way to both welcome back returning students and help freshmen acclimate to Vassar life. The recent Broken Social Scene was impressively attended, and ViCE hopes to secure additional free programming for students throughout the year. This past week's Jazz night and NoViCE concerts were very successful, and the Friday and Saturday night Film League will start up soon.

The first After Hours will be September 25<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a large party in UpCDC on October 11<sup>th</sup>. ViCE hopes to hold a major concert at the end of the year, as well as a few smaller shows in the fall and winter.

Anabel urged students to attend her office hours in on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30pm, as ViCE is looking to collaborate with a wider variety of students this year.

##### **c. Finance Report**

The VP for Finance presented Council with the finance report from the past month. He noted that there is a "significant amount of numbers" in the Special Purpose Fund, and that the Council Discretionary Fund is quite large this year. The VP for Activities added that a few organizations certified at the end of last year, such as Red Panda, MBSA and ECVC, are not included in the annual budget, but will be allocated budgets as soon as possible.

## **6. Appointment of Main Treasurer**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Francesca Veres as Main Treasurer. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **7. Appointment of South Commons President**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Jordan Stone as South Commons President. 2009 abstained, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **8. Appointment of South Commons Programming Director**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Jordanna Merran as South Commons Programming Director. Finance abstained, though all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **9. Appointment of South Commons Treasurer**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Katherine Becker as South Commons Treasurer. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **10. Appointment of Representative to the Dean of the College Search Committee**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Amory Meltzer as representative to the Dean of the College Search Committee. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **11. Appointment of Board of Elections Co-Chair**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Lea Wiemann as Board of Elections Co-Chair. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **12. Appointment of Representative to Board of Elections**

The VP for Operations moved to appoint Hongzhen Huang as a representative to the Board of Elections. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **13. Allocation of \$2500 to Ultimate Frisbee from Hosting Fund**

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$2500 to Ultimate Frisbee from the Hosting Fund for its "Hunt for Red October" tournament. Will host three current student Vassar teams, an alum team, as well as eight non-Vassar teams. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **13. Allocation of \$400 to Vassar Debate Society from Speaker's Fund**

The VP for Finance moved to allocate \$400 to Vassar Debate Society from the Speaker's Fund for its. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **14. Decertification of AIDS Ed**

The VP for Activities moved to decertify AIDS Ed. Since its Executive Board was comprised entirely of members of the Class of 2008, the org has no clear leader or contact person; as this violates the VSA Bylaws, the group must be decertified. All were in favor of decertification, and the motion passed.

## **15. Open Discussion**

- 2009 announced that 252 days remained until graduation.

- The VP for Student Life announced that the new Community Shuttle was successfully launched on Saturday.
- The VP for Finance reminded Council that a Presidents and Treasurers meeting will be taking place on Thursday at 8pm in Rocky 300.
- The VP of Operations encouraged Council members to join CRC, as more representatives are needed.

## **12. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.